

Social Justice & Anti-Racist Educator Resources

This collection of resources was originally compiled by members of the [Rochester \(Michigan\) Education Association](#). Materials were then shared with and curated by members of the [Governor's Educator Advisory Council](#) (GEAC) in order to make the collection available to educators throughout the State of Michigan.

The compilation aims to help colleagues begin, continue, and further their own work to FIRST educate themselves and then bring anti-racist teaching to all grade levels and subject areas.

We believe every child—regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or religion—has a right not only to a fair and just education, but also to see themselves reflected in the work they are asked to do, and to have their voices heard.

It is our intention for this collection to be an ongoing work in progress. We welcome your suggestions for additional resources through this [Google Form](#).

Please refer to the following sections as you explore Social Justice & Anti-Racist Educator Resources.

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[I Am An Educator](#), created by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, seeks to support teachers who "care about [their] students' racial consciousness and want to develop their racial awareness."

[Justice in June](#), created by two Twitter users, Bryanna Wallace and Autumn Gupta, offers ways to be an active ally to the Black Lives Matter movement, no matter if you have 10, 25, or 45 minutes per day. Some of these pieces could easily be used with students.

[Neil Degrasse Tyson on being Black, and Women in Science](#) is a short clip worth your time.

[Project Implicit](#) – take the Harvard-designed Implicit Bias test, explained here: [Test Yourself for Hidden Bias](#).

[Scaffolded Anti-Racist Resources](#) – this chart will help you to identify where you are in your anti-racist journey. It is offered free of charge, but we encourage you to donate to the causes listed at the top of the document, as payment for this valuable labor.

[Systemic Racism Explained](#) on YouTube (a good place to start).

Suggested Reading Lists

[This List is Anti-Racist](#) is an online book store supporting local independent book stores!

[Do the work: an anti-racist reading list](#) | Layla F Saad – an article by the author of [Me and White Supremacy](#).

[Anti-Racist Reading List from Ibram X. Kendi - Chicago Public Library](#) is a list inspired by this [piece](#) in The Atlantic by [Ibram Kendi](#), author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, and *Anti-Racist Baby*.

Books for/by Educators

Teachers love to learn, and the following books will help you on your way. Maybe even find some friends to join you in reading some of these. It is vitally important that we become educated and aware before trying to facilitate this work with students, as we can (even unintentionally) do harm. As Robin DiAngelo teaches us in *White Fragility: Why It's so Hard to Talk to White People About Racism*, we cannot privilege our good intentions over any harmful impact our actions cause.

[40+ Books for AntiRacist Teachers - White Fragiles Beware! \(summer 2020 update\)](#) this list by Joe Truss and is specifically for teachers. All of the books below can be found on this list.



[Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Teaching & Learning Classroom Practices for Student Success](#) by Sharroky Hollie

[Not Light, but Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom](#) by Matthew Kay

[Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences That Make a Difference](#) by Howard C. Stevenson

[Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School](#) by Monique Morris

[This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work](#) by Tiffany M. Jewell

[Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children in School](#) by Carla Shalaby

[We Got This: Equity, Access, and the Quest to be Who Our Students Need Us to Be](#) by Cornelius Minor

[We Want to do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom](#) by Bettina Love

[Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race](#) by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Anti-Racist Books to Share with Students

Consider adding these wish lists to your school or classroom library. We encourage you to order/buy (when possible) from local independent and/or Black-owned bookstores: [Bookshop: Buy books online. Support local bookstores.](#)

[5 Black Children's Authors and Illustrators You Should Know](#) ages vary with author

[28 Days Later](#) features Black authors of picture books, middle grades, and young adult books

[28 Great Black History Month Books for Kids](#) for ages 4-14

[31 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance](#) for ages 4-12

[1000 Black Girl Books Resource Guide – GrassROOTS Community Foundation](#) INCREDIBLE RESOURCE!! Has a filter which allows you to search by author, title and/or reading level.

[American Indians in Children's Literature \(AICL\): AICL's Best Books of 2018](#) This list will give you and your students exposure to American Indian culture as more than just part of history. All ages.



Read Alouds

[Antiracist Resources and Reads: Lists for All Ages](#) from the Evanston Public Library

[A Diverse #SummerReading List For Kids: NPR Ed](#) for ages 3-8

[Girls of the Crescent](#): our very own Rochester students working to increase diversity in libraries and schools.

[Wee Read Diverse Books](#) includes a lot of great reading resources for classrooms and families.

[BLM Instructional Library](#) a whole library of read alouds—just click the title you want. Note—this resource generally works better on a computer than a mobile device.

[Copy of Multicultural Awareness Books in English & Spanish](#) from the Garland Independent School District

[Woke Read Alouds: Wings](#) #WokeReadAlouds with @AkieaG: Just a beautiful example of how the books we choose to share as read alouds can be part of anti-racist work.

Podcasts More Your Thing? Check These Out!

[Past Imperfect](#): an episode of This American Life, a 12 minute first person narrative from Azie Dungey about her time playing the role of a slave for tourists at George Washington's Mount Vernon and how it affected her.


[Podcasts about race and racial injustice](#) is a list of podcasts that will teach you the historical context of our current systems. We highly recommend 1619, as well as season 2 of [Scene on Radio: Seeing White](#). (You can also read The 1619 Project [here](#).)

[Revisionist History Podcast](#) season 2, episode 3 of Revisionist History: Miss Buchanan's Period of Adjustment

Lesson Resources

[Ending Racism: Teaching Difficult Topics in 2020](#) These resources compiled by School Librarian Dr. Margaret Lincoln make possible a deeper exploration of the history and legacies of racial oppression and enslavement in America.

[Lee & Low Books: Multicultural Children's Book Publisher](#) provides books K-12, as well as teacher guides and lesson plans for over 600 of their titles. Books include social studies, STEM, and bilingual resources.



[Teaching Tolerance](#) provides incredible, accessible lessons, texts, and professional development for all levels and subjects.



- Use the search function on Teaching Tolerance for any subject area—there are lessons involving art, music, economics, math... anything you need.
- [Welcome to the Learning Plan Builder](#) “Based on the four domains of the Social Justice Standards (Identity, Diversity, Justice and Action), our Learning Plan Builder allows you to select meaningful student texts, choose how you’ll teach them and how you’ll assess student learning. Starting with an essential question that ties into the core social justice domains will help you create a learning plan tailored to your students.”
- [Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice](#) an example of a lesson for use with 6-12 grades
- [Film Kits](#) FREE film kits with lesson plans, including one specifically for elementary teachers, called Starting Small
- [Teaching Tolerance Magazine](#) with feature articles available along with access to archive of back files
- [Student Texts](#) searchable library of short texts for students

Content Specific Resources


Business & Marketing: [How Brands are Responding to the George Floyd Protests](#)

English Language Arts (ELA): [Crawling Out of the Classroom](#) 5th grade literacy teacher Jessica Lifshitz designs anti-bias, anti-racist lessons and shares them in her blog. These could be adjusted for younger AND older students. Here are some examples of the work she does:

- [Confronting Bias with Fifth Graders: Using the Draw-A-Scientist Experiment and the Covers of Picture Books To Help Students Recognize the Biases They Hold](#)
- [Teaching Personal Narratives as a Way to Explore Identity and Our Lived Experiences](#)

ELA: [DisruptTexts](#) “disrupting” the ways we approach and teach literature

ELA/Publications/Graphic Design: [How Alexandra Bell Is Disrupting Racism in Journalism](#)



Mathematics: [Classroom Resources Main Page](#) The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics upholds this [statement](#) on access and equity in mathematics.

- [Lesson Plans](#) for algebra, geometry, probability & statistics
- [The Role of Statistics in Human Rights Advocacy](#) statistics & human rights
- [Peace-Work Studies](#) statistics & data analysis

Music: [“You Might Be Left with Silence When You’re Done”](#) takes a look at the racist history behind some of the music children are asked to learn in school.

Music (and its use in the classroom): [TeachRock: Home](#) “a standards-aligned, arts integration curriculum that uses the history of popular music and culture to help teachers engage students.” One example lesson explores music in the age of emancipation & reconstruction: [Almost Emancipated: Reconstruction](#).

Science: [Build Your Portfolio With These Data for Good Project Ideas](#)

[Grappling with racism as foundational practice of science teaching](#) analyzes “the contradictions that emerged in science teaching practices that were both intended to support Student of Color science learning and engaged science-specific colorblind ideologies.”

Science/statistics/data: [The American Nightmare](#) introduces and explains how “race science” led to false beliefs about race and genetics. [Episodes 2 & 8](#) of the “Seeing White” series on the Scene on Radio podcast explains much of this, as well.

Social Studies: [Educator Resources](#) on Facing History and Ourselves: a wealth of lessons on topics on all areas of social studies. See also:

- [Echoes & Reflections](#) teaching about the Holocaust
- [The History of Racism in America](#) from The Smithsonian

People to Follow

Consider this as a “beginners” list of teachers and teacher leaders centered in anti-racist work.

Anti-racist work is not new, though it may be new to some. One of the best ways to begin learning more is to use social media to follow people doing this work.

We suggest you follow, read, and listen. Be especially mindful not to insist or expect Black, indigenous or people of color “teach” you. Look at what they provide, and use this document and the links compiled here to help you on your journey.

Twitter

@BrownBookshelf (highlights African American children’s authors & illustrators)

@CaitTeach (literacy, media specialist) Cait Hutsell

@CarlaShalaby (author of Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School)

@ChristieNold (middle school)

@ClearTheAirEdu (leads book discussions & Twitter chats on equity & social justice)

@DingleTeach (math) Marian Dingle

@DisruptTexts (ELA) Tricia Ebarvia (see below)

@EricaBuddington (history)

@Jess5th (ELA, literacy) Jessica Lifshitz

@JessycaMathews (ELA, Michigan Regional Teacher of the Year)

@MisterMinor (middle school, author of We Got This: Equity, Access, and the Quest to Be Who Our Students Need Us to Be) Cornelius Minor

@MochaMomma (Founder of Being Black At School) Kelly Wickham Hurst

@PGorski (Founder of the Equity Literacy Institute) Paul Gorski

@RodneyRobinson (social studies, 2019 National Teacher of the Year)

@ShannaPeoples (ELA, 2015 National Teacher of the Year)

@TeachNTransform (Anti-bias, Anti-racist education) Liz Kleinrock

@TheJLV (math) Jose Vilson

@TriciaEbarvia (English, American Lit)

@ValeriaBrownEdu (English) Val Brown

Instagram

@HereWeeRead (elementary literacy)

@MrsRussellsRoom (elementary literacy) Tamara Russell

@NoWhiteSaviors

@ReadLikeARockstar (elementary literacy) Naomi O'Brien

@TeachAndTransform (Anti-bias, Anti-racist education) Liz Kleinrock

@Teaching_Tolerance (also see lesson resources section above)

@TiffanyMJewell (Anti-bias, Anti-racist education) Tiffany Jewell

@TheConsciousKid (reducing bias, promoting positive identity development)

@TheTuTuTeacher (early elementary literacy) Vera Ahiiyya

Other Resources for Conversations with Students

[Black History Flashcards, Vol 1](#)

[A Conversation on Race - NYTimes.com](#) short films from real people (not actors) about their lived experiences

[The Conscious Kid](#) includes a resources such as “how to talk to kids about race” and several book lists.

[First Encounters With Race and Racism: Teaching Ideas for Classroom Conversations](#) the lesson is accompanied by a series of short videos, beginning with a simple explanation of implicit bias.

[The First Time I Realized I was Black](#) from CNN: “In “The Souls of Black Folk,” W.E.B. Du Bois talks about the first time he realized his skin color made him different. We asked celebrities, CNN anchors and reporters, and others to tell us when they first realized that being black affected how people treated them.”

[One World Posters](#) FREE classroom posters

Additional Compilations from Schools and Educators

[Anti-Racist Lesson Plans & Resources for Educators](#) an evolving list of books and lessons categorized by age and grade level. (While this seems to be a useful document, it is open source, and the creators are not named. Use with caution.)

[Black Lives Matter at School Resource Toolkit](#) compiled by the Rochester City School District in Rochester, New York in 2017. Includes resources for all levels, including readings and links for school leaders.

[Say Their Names: A toolkit to help foster productive conversations about race and civil disobedience](#) from Chicago Public Schools. Some of the resources in our document came from suggestions in this inclusive and thorough work. Thank you to Chicago Public Schools for this resource.

[Talking to Children about Racism and Social Justice](#) one-page infographic designed by the elementary media specialist and principal of Hamlin Elementary in Rochester, Michigan.

For PD Work in School or District

[How Ibram X. Kendi's Definition of Antiracism Applies to Schools](#) Places Dr. Kendi's work into context for schools and school districts.

[Cait Hutsell](#) recently posed this question on Twitter: If you could pick one article to show how systemic racism shows up in schools, which would you pick? Some of the responses are below:

- [3 Things Your School Should Be Doing to Ensure Equity for Black Boys!](#)
- [America Has to Take Its Knees Off the Neck of Public Education, Too](#)
- [Dysconscious Racism: Ideology, Identity, and the Miseducation of Teachers](#)
- [Are Schools the Great Equalizer? Cognitive Inequality during the Summer Months and the School Year](#) you will need an account to read these, but a free account entitles you to 100 articles a month.
- [How Systemic Racism Infiltrates Education](#) from Ben & Jerry's (yes, THAT Ben & Jerry's!)
- [How the George Floyd Conversation Extends to US Schools](#)
- [Money, Race and Success: How Your School District Compares](#)
- ['The Problem With Kindness': SEL & the Death of George Floyd](#) This is a 6-part series, and may require a subscription to read all of it.
- [The Racial Disparities in School Discipline](#), in 4 charts
- [The School to Prison Pipeline, Explained](#) – Justice Policy Institute